25 new volunteers to work at the Peace Corps in Bolivia

U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia David Greenlee will administer the Oath of Office to 25 new Peace Corps volunteers on Wednesday, April 7 at Hotel Regina in Cochabamba, which has become the Operations Center for Programming and Training for the organization.

These volunteers will work in the areas of natural resources, environmental education and agricultural expansion. In Bolivia, there are currently 138 volunteers working in seven departments. Because of their very isolated location, there are no volunteers in the departments of Beni and Pando. The volunteers focus their efforts on the most poverty-stricken regions of the country and work on four areas:

- Development of micro-enterprises and community tourism.
- Agricultural expansion and nutrition education.
- Basic sanitation, including the construction of potable water systems and latrines.
- Natural resources, including environmental education

From 1962 to 1971, more than 1,500 Peace Corps volunteers worked in Bolivia. Almost 20 years later, in March 1990, the Peace Corps reestablished its programs in Bolivia upon request from the Bolivian government. Since then, more than 1,000 volunteers have come to Bolivia to work in seven departments.

The Peace Corps was established under the administration of President John F. Kennedy with the objective of promoting world peace and friendship through the service of U.S. volunteers working abroad. It is a non-traditional U.S. government agency that reflects the most permanent ideals and values of the American people: generosity, civic pride, strong work ethic and a commitment to serve others.

The three main objectives that define the Peace Corps are:

- 1) Helping the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
- 2) Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
- 3) Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of all Americans.